# Series I Correspondence, 1932-1973

Box 5, Folder 15

October 26, 1945 - December 27, 1945

UNITED STATES PACIFIC FLEET STAFF OF COMMANDER IN CHIEF Oct. 26 1945 Dear Rafe, At has been sometime since your splended letter reached one. I appreciate more than dean express the fact that it came from you. Many considerations pertinent to my duty here compensated to a degree for my failure to get command duty in combat during this wer. Notable among these was the privilege of knowing and associating with naval officers when yourself. your knowledge of your profession and dilyonce in applying balanced judgement to operational problems made a deep impression upon me you occupy a very high position in my exteen and it is my hope that we may be together again of some future time. The rush of working out last minute features of the occupation, the move to Poarl, and a months leave, first finished, all conspired to delay this reply. Sincerely yours Harold Mandell Brig gen USA.

### UNITED STATES PACIFIC FLEET AND PACIFIC OCEAN AREAS HEADQUARTERS OF THE COMMANDER IN CHIEF

28 October 1945

Dear Rafe,

It is most thoughtful and generous of you to express yourself as you did with regard to my contribution to the war. It is always a source of happiness to hear that someone feels that one's efforts are worth while. And I might add that it is even better to realize there are friends in the world who take the time and trouble to write about it.

Needless to say, I am very much flattered and will keep your letter along with my citation to show my grand-children what a valuable officer I was.

Seriously, whatever ability I may have displayed is directly traceable to the war college and to the very fine study in logic which was available to us there; and you more than any other were responsible for the fact that it was presented in a manner which was clear and digestible.

Your own service in the war was perhaps as varied and as consistently successful as any officer I know; it was the corps of officers such as yourself with "know-how", who really did the trick.

Most sincerely yours,

JAMES B. CARTER Commodore, USN

Commodore R. W. Bates ComMTBRonsPac c/o Postmaster San Francisco, California



United States Pacific Fleet
AND Pacific Ocean Areas
Headquarters of the commander in Chief
4 November, 1945

Dear Rafe:
This is one helluva time to be answering your letter of and your memo & of 7 September, but I guess maybe I slacked by the state of the commander of the state of the commander of the state of the

This is one helluva time to be answering your letter of 28 Aug. and your memo & of 7 September, but I guess maybe I slacked back after Lieut-Comdr. Bonte was here, figuring that he would take back with him such information as we had to give - which wasn't much. You may by now have done all the historical work on the MTBs that you are able to do or are going to do, but nevertheless I am going to give you a brief of the Big Idea involved:

The story of each actual engagement and operation is well taken care of in the Action Reports from all craft participating therein; it need only have the reports assembled and digested, as we have done to some extent in Cincpac's monthly reports. And if anyone ever wants to, it could be done all over again from a different angle, following some particular type or group right thru the war in more detail than we were able to give.

The War Diaries likewise give a good history of each individual ship, - whete she was and what she did, and when.

But there has been pretty much of a gap where <u>organizations</u>, either ashore or afloat were concerned; -- what they were like, how they grew, how they functioned, what worked well and what didn't, and in general sort of a blue-print and manual of the organization; so that if a totally different set of officers had to do it all over again in another war, they would have a guide to go by. This is what Admiral Kalbfus & pake spake of.

of course of the files and records are scattered and lost, that makes it rather tough. but you (or whoever you have doing it) can't go far wrong by covering as much as can be covered and keeping your eye on the objective of producing something that will help next time.

Well, old dear, two days from now will see me who will bidding adieu to Hawaii and Makalapa, and winging my way back to the 12 th District and to separation from active duty. Our final monthly reports are jammed up at the printers waiting their turn to go to press; and there is nothing left to do that Roy Sackett and the other boys can't do just as well.

Mrs Parker is not in good health and needs me; and altho I would not turn down a job in a permanent status, like that of Dudley Knox or Harry Baldridge, there would be no point in my merely sticking along on a month to month basis, liable to get kicked out by the Bu. Pers. at any time. I have got to hitch up my galluses and see what kind of a life I can make for myself and the Mrs. We will probably settle on the West Coast somewhere.

(over)



It sure has been a pleasure to have known you and worked with you; and if my good wishes hade anything to do with it, you should keep your star and add another one to it.

Best of luck,old dear; and here's hoping we meet again, somewhere, some time and go into a heated session as to how to run both the last war and the next one.

As ever,

Ralph C.Parker Captain, U.S.N (Ret)

P.S. Young Lieut-John Kemble, U.S.N.R. is the chief impresario in this office in regard to this Administrative History. I don't know whether the Analytical Section and Historical Section will be divorced after I leave, or whether Captain Sackett will step into my shoes in charge of them both. But Kemble is the one who knows most about the Historical business.

Kwajalein 5 November 1945

Dear Dick:

I was perfectly delighted to receive your cerdial letter with the helpful advice and interest. I appreciate tremendously your interest and taking the time to write me such a fine letter.

As you must have been aware, my letter to you was partly influenced by a great desire to blow off steam. Well, all good things come to him who waits and, as you know, I finally got my promotion in the routine way. I was very pleased to learn that my squadron had initiated steps to get me a spot promotion to lieutenant-commander, before the general promotion came out, so it was an indication to me that my immediate command were aware and appreciative of my work for them.

One thing that concerned me more than anything was the fact that I had been "passed over" twice. I was very seriously considering applying for regular navy and was discouraged out of it by this fact, feeling that it would be a black mark against me in my naval career. I have enjoyed some phases of naval life very much; the long machinery of red tape not so much. As things stand now, I am eligible for discharge on points this month. However, I may have an epportunity for a pretty swell job in the China area for NATS and I have volunteered to stay in long enough to complete it if they give it to me. I have also requested a few weeks duty on the Coast first, for I have been out fifteen months and would not be satisfied to spend another six months away without seeing my family. Naturally, I haven't breathed a word of this to my family for I am sure they are most anxious for me to get home as soon as possible.

The job here continues to be interesting, although particularly trying with the high loss of experienced personnel. However, every command seems to be in the same boat and I have no legitimate complaints.

Thank you again, Dick for your swell letter and I certainly hope to see you one of these days soon.

Sincerely,

1063





### DEPARTMENT OF THE NAVY GENERAL BOARD WASHINGTON

7 November 1945

Dear Rafe:

Your letter of 7 October has come and I am certainly pleased to have it. What you have said is very gratifying and I appreciate it. So does Lydia.

You will note from the above that I am on the General Board. While the duty is not very onerous, on the other hand, it is pleasant to have a chance to take it easy. Having lived out of the United States most of the past six years I am enjoying being home. And after being bombed in London and other places and shot at indiscriminately I am enjoying a breather.

I am sorry you haven't more than one star. But a broad command pennant is salty and I know its possession means you have done the bang-up job I consider you have always done.

With my thanks and I hope to see you when you come East.

Sincerely yours,

alan Kirk

Commodore R. W. Bates, USN Motor Torpedo Boat Squadrons Pacific Fleet Office of the Commander c/o Fleet Post Office San Francisco, California

UNITED STATES FLEET UNITED STATES NAVAL FORCES IN EUROPE Please refer 28 GROSVENOR SQUARE to file: LONDON, W.I November 12, 1945. Dear Rafe. Congratulations on your Commodore job. I should have written long ago but have been fairly well tied down here in the European Theatre for about a year and a half checking up on German technical activities in all marine fields and trying to find out what the neutral countries like Sweden and Switzerland have been up to in the last five years. It has all been extremely interesting and highly enlightening and of course, have dabbled on the edge of atomic bombs and all other types of rocket propulsion mechanisms. I certainly do appreciate your letter and find the memories of the "big brown bears" just as vivid as you describe them.

I did enjoy my job in the propeller section of the Bureau very much and felt I was able to contribute something in that field but as I am about to leave this Maval Attache job in London and go back to the Bureau, I will welcome something with a broader field. I have been told that I will go into the design branch and try to make use of some of the stuff I have supposed to be learning over here.

Hope it won't be too long before we meet up again and that in the meantime everything goes well with you.

with very warmest personal regards, I am

Respectfully yours,

al numma



14 November 1945.

Dear Rafe:

I must apologize for taking so long to answer your letter of 30 August. It reached me immediately before I left on a trip to the Western Pacific, which gave me a chance to inspect some of my ships and also to see Tokyo, Yokohama, Yokosuka, Nagasaki, Sasebo, and Shanghai. Thirty-six hours after I returned, I received orders to proceed immediately to Washington, where I spent a month studying and kibitzing the postwar composition of the Fleet and making a Navy Day speech at the Waldorf with the Secretary. Naturally, upon my return, there was a lot of stuff backed up which has consumed most of my time.

The MINNEAPOLIS was considered by the Pacific Fleet Board of Awards, of which I am President, and was turned down for the Navy Unit Commendation, for the reason that while she did render stalwart service, she was not especially outstanding as compared with many other cruisers.

I greatly appreciate your congratulations upon my part in the war, and in return I say "da mesma forma," which in Portuguese means "the same to you."

With all good wishes, I am

Sincerely yours,

W. H. P. BLANDY, Rear Admiral, U.S. Navy.

Commodore R. W. Bates, U. S. Navy, Commander Motor Torpedo Boat Squadrons, Pacific Fleet, Care Fleet Post Office, San Francisco, California.



### COMMANDER SERVICE FORCE UNITED STATES PACIFIC FLEET

28 November 1945.

Dear Rafe:

Your envoy, Lieutenant Godfrey was in to see me today in regard to personnel matters, and I am glad to know your problem is not too serious at the present, and that it will be a month or so before it begins to show signs of strain. We are being strained to the limit at present to keep ships operating for the next two months. There are no water tenders or firemen available in this or any other area at the present time.

You will obtain personnel through PhilSeaFron. As for your officer personnel, it is very doubtful that you will receive any trained motor torpedo boat officers. ComPhilSeaFron is now maintaining a small pool of seagoing officers and he has been authorized by the Bureau to make assignments to ships in his area as required to replace officers due for demobilization. I would recommend that you keep ComPhilSeaFron informed as to your officer and enlisted personnel requirements.

Godfrey stated that so far you had been unable to obtain any personnel from PhilSeaFron. This is probably due to the fact that, as you state in your memorandum, your problem is not too serious at present, and ComPhilSeaFron is having to scratch gravel in order to keep the vessels for which he is assigning personnel operating.

While there is no definite directive on the subject, at the present time the order of priority on personnel, both officer and enlisted, is about as follows: 1. Ships engaged in Magic Carpet operations; 2. Ships engaged in mine sweeping operations; 3. Ships operating in the Fifth and Seventh Fleets. Anything left over from the above categories is spread very thin among the remaining ships.

I am sorry I cannot be of more help at the present time. If, and when, your situation becomes acute, should PhilSeaFron be unable to give you assistance, I will do my best to improve the situation. However, I might add that my best will probably be very little.

With best wishes for a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year,

Sincerely, Dels

Commodore R. W. Bates, USN, Commander Motor Torpedo Boat Squadrons,

Pacific Fleet, % Fleet Post Office, San Francisco, Calif.

1067





WASHINGTON 25, D. C.

November 30, 1945



YOUR FILE REFERENCE:

Commodore Richard W. Bates, U.S.N., Motor Torpedo Boat Squadrons, Pacific Fleet, c/o Fleet Post Office, San Francisco, California.

IN REPLY REFER TO:
K-235,314

My dear Commodore Bates:

Reference is made to your letter postmarked November 1, 1945 enclosing a remittance of \$700 for credit to the loan indebtedness against your United States Government life insurance policy K-235,314 and Loan Interest Notice (Form 876-A) forwarded with a check dated October 31, 1945 to pay annual loan interest.

All premiums paid on United States Government life insurance and all interest earned thereupon are covered into a separate fund in the United States Treasury designated as the "United States Government Life Insurance Fund", which is a trust fund administered by the Government as trustee for the sole benefit of the policyholders. The Government derives no profit whatever from the administration of the fund which may be used only for the payment of claims under United States Government life insurance contracts and of dividends to policyholders themselves. In considering the United States Government Life Insurance Fund, it must be clearly understood that the beneficial interest in the reserves belongs exclusively to the policyholders. It is from this fund that loans are made to policyholders.

The records show that the loan outstanding on your policy was increased to \$3,647.46 effective September 15, 1937. The policy loan agreement provides in part that the interest on the loan shall be at the rate of 5 per centum per annum, payable annually on the anniversary of the loan or at the time of any prior settlement. If the interest on this indebtedness is due and unpaid on the anniversary date of the loan, no default having been made in payment of premium, such interest shall be added to and become a part of the indebtedness evidenced by this loan agreement and shall bear interest in the same manner. Failure to pay such loan or to pay interest thereon shall not avoid the policy unless the total indebtedness shall equal or exceed the cash value of the policy without indebtedness.

Information has been received that a reduction in the rate of interest charged on loans on Government insurance is receiving consideration by the Congress at this time. On or about the fifteenth of the month preceding the month in which interest is due, the Veterans Administration mails Loan Interest Notices (Form 876-A) to all policyholders who have loans on their insurance as reminders of the interest due date. If a loan interest notice is not received, a remittance to pay loan interest should

Commodore Richard W. Bates - 2 -K-235,314 be tendered on or before the due date accompanied with a statement showing the purpose of the remittance, the insured's full name and the policy number. This office should be informed promptly over your signature of any change of address in order that communications relative to your United States Government life insurance may be received with the least possible delay. Interest due and unpaid on the anniversary date of the loan against your policy K-235,314 from September 15, 1938 to September 15, 1945, inclusive, increased the loan principal to \$5,483.82 as of the later date. The remittance of \$700 enclosed in your letter has been credited as of the postmark date, November 1, 1945, to reduce the loan principal to \$4,783.82 The receipt for this payment is enclosed. Credit is allowed from the postmark date of each partial payment on the loan principal during the policy loan year when calculating the amount of interest due on the following anniversary date of the loan or at the time of any prior settle-There is a discrepancy in the amounts entered on the check tendered to pay loan interest. The numerals show \$300; however, the script reads three dollars. In view of the amount of the discrepancy and since the remittance was not tendered on or before the interest due date, the check is returned herein for your disposition. It is the desire and constant endeavor of the Veterans Administration to give efficient service to all policyholders in matters pertaining to their United States Government life insurance. Information requested by the insured is furnished with the least possible delay. Any concern caused you in connection with your insurance is sincerely regretted. Your inquiry relative to dividends is receiving attention. Very truly yours. Chief, Premium Accounts Division. Enc. 784 check

Cincpac File

P20-2

UNITED STATES PACIFIC FLEET AND PACIFIC OCEAN AREAS HEADQUARTERS OF THE COMMANDER IN CHIEF

Serial52285

2000 1945

From:

Commander in Chief, U. S. Pacific Fleet. Commodore Richard W. BATES, U.S. Navy, (9027), To:

Commander Motor Torpedo Boat Squadrons, Pacific Fleet.

Subject:

Fitness Report - Submission of.

l. You are hereby advised that a fitness report was submitted by Fleet Admiral C. W. Nimitz to the Chief of Naval Personnel covering your performance of duty from 21 May 1945 to 24 November 1945, the date of Fleet Admiral Nimitz's detachment.

#### CHIEF OF STAFF UNITED STATES PACIFIC FLEET



5 December 1945

Dear Dicky:

Thank you so much for your November letter and for the enclosure of one written in August, that for some reason had never reached me.

My time here is nearing an end. Spruance has already assumed command and Lynde McCormick is now here to relieve me. Where my next assignment will be is in the laps of the Gods, Louis Denfeld, et als. In due course, they will doubtless let me in on the secret, but it would be a bit more satisfying to know now just what the future does hold.

You, too, will be getting back before long, and you know how much I would like to see you in a place where your talents can be capitalized on. It is no news to you that, aside from great respect for your work, I have particular admiration for the cheerful, wholehearted, and efficient manner you have habitually gone about the task at hand, ignoring "the slings and arrows of outrageous fortune."

Best wishes, as always.

Cordiably,

C. H. McMORRIS,

Vice Admiral, U. S. Navy.

Commodore R. W. Bates, USN, Commander Motor Torpedo Boat Squadrons, Pacific Fleet, % Fleet Post Office, San Francisco, California.



## COMMANDER HAWAIIAN SEA FRONTIER PEARL HARBOR, T. H.



8 December 1945

Dear Rafe:

Many thanks for your kind letter of congratulations. I could be much more cheerful about it if I could say "the same to you". The system missed a bet on you, believe me. I think I know you as well as anyone does and I tell you honestly, you too should have been promoted.

I heard many rumors before the good news finally came and the uncertainty of it pushed me nearer to the decision I finally made as soon as I was promoted. I am retiring about 15 December to accept a position with the Hawaiian Pineapple Company which was offered me several months ago. After careful thought I accepted in the belief that I can easily be spared from the Navy and I am being offered a splendid chance to make my way in business.

I have been elected one of three Executive Vice Presidents in the Company. You know the importance of the Company as well as I and I am certain that you will agree that I have made no mistake. Naturally the salary inducement carried considerable weight but I also feel that there is a real future for me in the Company if I succeed.

The two Emilys join me before Christmas and the Overeschs will be "at home" for a few years in HonoJulu. I won't ask you to look us up, I take that for granted. There will always be a place for old Rafie. With every good wish for yourself, I am,

Sincerely yours,

Commodore R. W. Bates, USN, Commander, Motor Torpedo Squadrons, U. S. Pacific Fleet,

c/o Fleet Post Office, San Francisco, California. Refer to No.

### NAVY DEPARTMENT BUREAU OF NAVAL PERSONNEL

WASHINGTON 25, D.C.



13 December 1945

 Commodore R. W. Bates, U.S.N., ComMTBRonsPac, c/o Fleet Post Office, San Francisco, California.

#### Dear Rafe:

I was pleased to receive your letter of 24 November containing the suggestion for inducing flag officers to retire by paying them the difference between the active duty pay of their rank and retired pay until they reach the retirement age. There appears to be merit in your suggestion, although I doubt whether Congress would favorably consider the expenditure of funds for this purpose.

We have in session at the present time a board headed by Rear Admiral Hopwood considering postwar permanent promotion laws and related matters. I believe that board will be pleased to receive your suggestion and I have therefore transmitted your letter to the board for consideration.

Needless to say, in these times when the future of the Navy is under active consideration, the Department deeply appreciates receiving suggestions such as that contained in your letter.

I was pleased to hear of the progress in demobilizing and decommissioning the Motor Torpedo Boat Fleet.

With kind personal regards and best wishes for the Holiday Season, I am.

Very sincerely yours,

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C O P Y

27Ø7Ø4

#283

MSG COMMODORE DEES X REF COMSERVPAC 232338 COMPHILSEAFRON 240902 X NO MATTER WHAT YOUR DECISION WOULD LIKE AUTHORITY TAKE WITH ME TO COMPHILSEAFRON HEADQUARTERS 4 YEOMEN X WESTLEY F J 3813677 CY HATCHETT J R 6256755 Y1C PERRY J C 2747229 Y1C and WINTON O W 6176167 Y1c FOR MY PERSONAL STAFF X THIS WAS DISCUSSED WITH YOU AT PEARL X REQUEST IMMEDIATE REPLY AS EXPECT DISSOLVE COMMAND ON 29 DECEMBER X

FROM: COMMTBRONSPACFLT

TO: COMSERVPAC

### NAVY DEPARTMENT

#### c/o OFFICE OF THE CHIEF OF NAVAL OPERATIONS

Washington 25, D. C. Room 3624



17 December 1945.

My dear Rafe:

Your 27 November letter has more meat in it than anything I have seen on the same subject yet, and I subscribe one-hundred percent to your views and arguments. I have always stressed training and jumped to thoughts of post-war training on V-J Day.

The hell of it is that although I was initially slated to take over the Readiness Division and then boosted on the slate to take the Assistant ONO job in Operations, the situation now, as far as I am concerned, is muddled up again and I do not know what my ultimate assignment is going to be. At the moment I am working on a joint pay bill as the Navy representative, but after that is finished quien sable? There is a large number of people hanging around the Department in the same category — being used on odd jobs until spots can be found for them. Which, of course, is inevitable when there are more officers than post-war jobs.

Although I personally at the moment am not in a position to do anything about training, your letter has so much of good in it that I am sending it to Dick Conolly (presently ACVO, Operations) and to Jerry Wright who has relieved Delaney in the Readiness Section. I feel sure that what you have said will stimulate good thinking when they read it. What you were good enough to say about me personally is something that I value so much that I wart that letter returned.

The Navy Department, as might be expected, is one gigartic headache these days and I suppose that we can naturally expect a difficult period of turnoil for the rext couple of years or until the size and mission of the post-war Navy is settled and our position in the UNO is crystallized.

Rest wishes for a pleasant holiday and a successful 1946, and give my best to all my friends in your bailiwick.

Cheerio

PORT. B. Carre

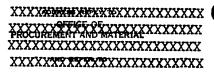
Commodore R. W. Bates, U.S. Havy, ComMTBRonsPacFlt, c/o Fleet Post Office, San Francisco, Calif.

1075

Well. well. Commodore Bates. Its been a long time since those old Burng War Plans days, hasn't it. Oh, yes. I'm still running the Navy and haven't missed many days in so doing. Have often thought of you way out there, and have sent numerous messages via word of mouth, but I'm sure they never went any further. So glad you survived all the difficulties of war and do hope the world is treating you okay these days.. Why not come back and visit D.C. some day. I've been working now for Adm. Moreell since 200 Nov. 19th and he really is a very swell guy. I'm the private sec'y at the moment, but probably will go out on my ear most any day. Its really a temporary arrangement but I was willing to take the chance (over)

There are still a few of the old timers around, and I guess we'll hang on as long as there is breath in the body. There have been many exciting times and events around town — particularly V-J night, but you've been really better off being out where you didn't have to struggle and fight for every article. It was (and is) a very strenuous time, but no doubt we'll survive it and know quite well that we were much, much better off than the rest of the world. It was good to hear of you again.

an old Budocks. War Flanner.



#### NAVY DEPARTMENT

WASHINGTON 25, D.C.



ADDRESS REPLY TO

MATERIAL DIVISION OFFICE OF

THE ASSISTANT SECRETARY

AND REFER TO

27 December 1945.

My dear Bates:

I want you to know how deeply I appreciate your very kind letter of 5 December and the statements you make therein, which are very flattering to me and to my organization.

While you are mistaken about my being elevated to four stars, this really is not important. People in the Navy get their compensation from the realization of a job 'well done' and when someone who knows, like yourself, says that the job has been 'well done' it is a great compensation.

I will treasure your letter as a sincere statement of commendation.

With kindest regards and best wishes for your future success. I am

Sincerely yours

B. Moreell.

Commodore R. W. Bates, USN, Motor Torpedo Boat Squadrons Pacific Fleet, Office of the Commander, Fleet Post Office, San Francisco, California.

